S-1

Bangalore,

5th April 1918.

My dear Mirza,

Many thanks for your kind letter about the additional Member of Council. I am not very keen on any particular proposal for its own sake. I suggested an additional Member because that seems to be the only solution, having regard to the growth of work and the present composition of the Council.

What would meet my immediate wants is the appointment of a Member or an officer who would deal with all the work of the three departments (viz., Education, Public Works and Electrical and Railways), after they come from the Secretaries concerned, on the understanding that questions of policy and all large questions are dealt with under my advice or guidance and that he would not object to my taking the initiative whenever necessary. In most cases, the initiative will be taken with the consent of the officer or Member as I am doing now in other departments. If this is done, I shall get much relief and the future of the development work we are doing will be safe.

I want similar freedom in reference to the Department of Industries and Commerce in charge of the Second Member but I feel sure I shall be able to get his consent.

There are other serious difficulties due to cliques and outside interests of various kinds in the State. In such matters, it is necessary that His Highness should be pleased to enquire into, and keep

close touch with, the difficulties of his chief Minister and satisfy himself that proper alternative courses exist before vetoing any of his recommendations.

His Highness will be pleased to see that my difficulties are only in two or three directions and that, if I have seemed obstrusive or inconveniently insistent at times during the past eighteen months, it is because I see danger ahead. - I feel my personal interests are quite unimportant before the vast interests of His Highness and of the State.

Yours Sincerely,
M. Visvesvaraya